

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 065648

R 112034Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1180

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USCINCSO

DOD

DA

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7892

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER ARA ADDRESSEES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR XM US VE

REF: CARACAS 7666 AND PREVIOUS

1. LOCAL REACTION TO TENTH CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN ARMIES SEPTEMBER 3 - 10 WAS FAVORABLE ONCE RATHER SUSPICIOUS VENEZUELAN CIVILIAN POLITICIANS REALIZED THAT THE SOLDIERS' DISCUSSIONS OF INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM REFORM WOULD NOT INFRINGE ON FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER NON-MILITARY PREROGATIVES. VENEZUELAN MILITARY REASSURED CIVILIAN OBSERVERS BY MAINTAINING STRICT "INSTITUTIONAL" STANCE AND IGNORING REVOLUTIONARY PRODDINGS BY SOME OTHER COUNTRIES' DELEGATES. PRESIDENT CALDERA CAREFULLY ASSOCIATED MEETING WITH PEACEFUL PURSUITS, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPMENT. SURPRISINGLY, LOCAL LEFTIST GROUPS FOUND COMMON GROUND IN FAVORING MEETING, GIVEN PERUVIAN/ARGENTINE THESIS OPPOSING US "HEGEMONY".

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2. PERU'S GEN. MERCADO JARRIN HAD HIGHEST PROFILE OF ANY DELEGATE;

VENEZUELAN HOSTS, WHO KNOW HIM AND WHO ARE SOMEWHAT NERVOUS AROUND HIM, WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO TREAT HIM ROYALLY. MAIN DIFFERENCES AMONG DELEGATES CONCERNING RATIONALE FOR CONFERENCE SURFACED IN INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS' CONFERENCE AUGUST 27 - 31. DESPITE WIDESPREAD PREDICTIONS PERU AND ARGENTINA WOULD RAM THROUGH ELIMINATION OF "SUBVERSION" AND OTHER REFERENCES TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST DANGERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS, SUCH CHANGES WERE SUCCESSFULLY VOTED DOWN BY COMMANDERS. THIS SO INCENSED PERU AND ARGENTINA THAT THEY TOOK NO FURTHER PART; ARGENTINA VOWED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE CONFERENCES UNLESS THEIR IDEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL BASES ARE CHANGED. HARD LINERS MADE CLEAR THEIR VIEW THAT REAL ENEMY (COMMUNISM) HAS NOT CHANGED. VENEZUELA TRIED TO BE GOOD HOST AND STAY OUT OF CROSSFIRE.

3. DESPITE LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN REGULATIONS, TENTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTED TURNING POINT: NATIONS INCREASINGLY RESTIVE AT TRADITIONAL HEMISPHERIC SECURITY CONCERNS WILL PROBABLY DEMAND MODIFICATIONS IN FUTURE. MOREOVER, PRESSURES FOR CHANGE HAVE REACHED POINT WHERE EVEN PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH CONFERENCES ARE NOW IN QUESTION. DETAILS FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

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